

on this occasion my brother and I found a single pair, in worn and blackish midsummer plumage, about the middle of June.

The winter residents begin to arrive in early November, and by the middle of that month they are fairly common; in midwinter they are doubtless much more abundant.

Melospiza georgiana. SWAMP SPARROW.—This is without doubt the commonest winter bird in Louisiana and Mississippi; the first birds arrive a little after the first of October, and the species is abundant within a week after that time. The full bulk arrives early in November, and contributes so many individuals to the already crowded thickets, that it is hard to see how so many can find sustenance. About the first week in March they begin to thin out, and in a month nearly all are gone, though near New Orleans I have seen a single one as late as May 3.

GENERAL NOTES.

Record of a Fifth Specimen of the European Widgeon (*Anas penelope*) in Indiana.—A specimen of this Duck was killed by a local gunner on the marshes at English Lake, Indiana, on the 15th April, 1899. The gunner was not acquainted with the species, never having seen one before, but called the attention of Mr. John Taylor, Supt. of the English Lake Shooting and Fishing Club, to a red-headed Widgeon which he had just killed. Mr. Taylor examined the Duck and gave me the information. This makes the ninth record for the interior.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

The Scarlet Ibis (*Guara rubra*) in Arizona.—When crossing the Rillito about a mile north of old Fort Lowell, with a party of friends, September 17, 1890, en route to Sabina Cañon, I saw a small flock of Scarlet Ibis. There were seven or eight of them. They were standing in the running water and were pluming themselves. The day was hot and fearing if I killed any they would spoil before I could get home with them, I decided not to interfere with them till my return a few hours later. To my great disappointment they were then gone.—HERBERT BROWN, *Yuma, Arizona.*

Notes on the Breeding of the Wilson's Snipe (*Galinago delicata*) in Illinois and Indiana.—With occasional exceptions, northern Indiana is undoubtedly the southern breeding range of the 'Jack Snipe,' yet I do not think it is generally known that many remain, even in this latitude, to rear their young, and the majority of sportsmen, at least, think that

after the spring migration has passed on, no Wilson's Snipe will again be seen until September. It has only been within the past few years that I have appreciated the numbers which must breed along the Kankakee River in Indiana. We know there is no fall migration as early as July and August, and consequently such birds as are killed in those months must be the breeding birds and their young, which at this season do not show any material variation in size or plumage. At English Lake, which is a mere widening of the Kankakee River near the settlement bearing the same name, the water is often sufficiently low in the summer months to expose a considerable territory of mud flats, grown up to cane and wild rice, and it is here that the Snipe congregate during a portion of the day and at night retire to the marshes back from the lake and river. On August 7, 1893, Mr. J. M. Mackay and friend bagged sixty-nine 'Jacks,' and one morning in the latter part of July, 1897, killed forty-two of the same bird.

But few instances of the actual finding of the nests have come to my knowledge. Mr. G. Frean Morcom has a set of eggs in his collection collected on the grounds of the Macsauber Shooting Club, near Davis Station, Indiana, on the Kankakee River, and another nest was discovered by Mr. John Watson of Chicago, a sportsman of large experience in Snipe shooting. He wrote me under date of May 25, 1898: "I found the 'Jack Snipe' nest referred to, on April 24, 1898, near what is known as the 'big ditch,' about two miles south of Davis Station, Indiana. There were three eggs in the nest, large eggs for the size of the bird, and very much tapered at one end, dull white and splashed with black markings. I was within two feet of the nest when the bird flushed and acted as though crippled, lying on the withered grass with extended wings, about ten feet from where I stood. I walked up to her and off she went, and a very lively bird she then was."

I am also indebted to Mr. F. R. Bissell of Chicago, a sportsman well acquainted with the Wilson's Snipe, for information regarding a nest containing four eggs which he found on April 24, 1896, while hunting through meadows some ten miles west of Waukegan, Lake Co., Illinois. On two occasions I have flushed Snipe in Stark Co., Indiana, in April, when their actions were sufficiently suspicious to satisfy me they were nesting in the immediate vicinity, but a thorough search failed to reveal the nests of either.

In most, if not all States the Wilson's Snipe has never been protected at any season, but under a new bill for the better protection of Game Birds and other species, now pending before the legislature of Illinois, this Snipe is given a close season between the 25th day of April and the 1st day of September. It is hoped this may become a law, inasmuch as we know that a considerable number must breed within the limits of the State every year.

A very late record for this Snipe in Illinois is three being shot by Mr. C. J. Spencer on December 24, 1896, at Benton, Ill., in the northeastern

corner of the State. The weather was very cold and everything frozen up except a small space of ground which had been kept soft by the draining of hot water pipes from a stationary pumping engine. These birds had evidently been living on this spot for some time, as they were in good condition. — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Columba corensis at Key West, Florida. — On October 24, 1898, an adult female of this species was shot on the Island of Key West, and brought to me in the flesh, by a young collector in my employment, who found it among some Doves in the possession of a dove hunter, who had shot it from a wild fig tree on the outskirts of the town. The skin was sent to Mr. William Brewster, who kindly confirmed my identification, and it is now in his collection. — JOHN W. ATKINS, *Key West, Fla.*

The California Vulture in Arizona. — So far as I know there has been no record made of the California Vulture (*Pseudogryphus californianus*) being in Arizona, and I therefore offer one. In March, 1881, three men, Bill Johnson, Joe Henderson and Miles Noyes, crossed the Colorado River at Pierce's Ferry, Grand Wash Cliffs, northwestern Arizona. At that time the ferry consisted of a row boat attached to a line that extended across the river from bank to bank. In this boat the men crossed with their packs and swam their horses. They camped that night under the high bluffs. Next morning while getting breakfast they observed what appeared to be two Indians watching them from the top of a distant cliff. This at first glance drove the men to their guns, but a more careful examination showed the strangers to be a pair of Vultures. Later they flew almost directly over the camp at an elevation of between 75 and 100 yards. Noyes fired a shot from a model 76 Winchester and struck one breaking its right wing near the body. It struck the boulders on the river bank and was killed by the fall. It was described as being of "a dark brown color with purplish warts on the neck." The men had no rule, so measured it with a gun. It was over a gun length in height and more than three gun lengths in the spread of its wings. — HERBERT BROWN, *Yuma, Arizona.*

Melanerpes erythrocephalus Wintering in Chicago. — Some time since Mr. Brandler called my attention to the fact that there was a single specimen of Red-headed Woodpecker hanging about the shrubbery in Jackson Park. While out for an early walk on the morning of February 17, I had the pleasure of coming on the bird myself as it was clinging to the trunk of the tree close down to the ground, evidently protecting itself from the wind, in the growth of ornamental shrubs. It was all huddled together, with every feather ruffled, and it was a pitiable sight indeed with the thermometer hovering, as it was, about the twenty below zero mark. This is the only instance which has come to my notice of the Red-head exhibiting the hardihood necessary to winter in this local-